



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**U.S. CHARGES WHITE PLAINS MAN WITH DEFRAUDING
CELEBRITY SPEAKERS OF APPEARANCE FEES**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that ALAN S. WALKER, the President of the Program Corporation of America ("PCA"), was charged in an eight-count Indictment filed today in White Plains federal court, with the assistance of the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, in connection with a scheme to defraud speakers of tens of thousands of dollars in appearance fees.

WALKER was arrested on October 23, 2003, in connection with these charges, and is currently released on bail pending trial. He is scheduled to be arraigned on November 19, 2003, before United States Magistrate Judge LISA MARGARET SMITH.

According to the Indictment, from 2001 through 2003, WALKER, through PCA, arranged speaking engagements for public figures including former astronaut Scott Carpenter, retired boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, James Earl Jones and Andy Rooney. In

each case, either the speaker or the venue for the speaking engagement - including Wheaton College, Southern Illinois University, Indiana State University, and the Kalamazoo Public Library - was defrauded of appearance fees, as WALKER received money from the venue and did not pay the speakers.

WALKER is charged with eight counts of mail fraud, each of which carries, upon conviction, a maximum of 20 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the offense.

Mr. COMEY praised the investigative efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorneys JACOB W. BUCHDAHL and DAN DORSKY are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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